

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Jonas J. Hodges (Reg. 58,898) on 3/18/2009.

The application has been amended as follows: (Changes are underlined to the claims dated 10/27/2008)

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The locking mechanism of claim 11, wherein the lock release device is adapted to move in the third direction against its spring bias.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 10-13, 16, 17 and 19 are allowed.
3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a locking mechanism for locking a cover to a main body, comprising a plurality of spring loaded locking members, each of the plurality of locking members having a bias spring biasing the locking member in a bias direction in a closed position and having a locking leg extending orthogonally to each said bias direction from the top face of the locking member, a lock release device operatively coupled to the plurality of locking members to simultaneously move each of the plurality of locking member against its bias spring, wherein each of the plurality of locking members moves

laterally in a different direction, wherein the lock release device moves orthogonally to each of the plurality of locking members, and wherein the lock release device is biased in the closed position by a longitudinal elastic member, and a plurality of latching members adjacent to the top face of the locking members, the plurality of latching members being attached to the cover and separate from the lock release device, each of the latching members being securely gripped by the locking leg of a respective locking member of the plurality of locking members, wherein the lock release device is in partial frictional contact with the plurality of locking members, wherein each of the plurality of latching members is released from the grip of the corresponding locking member when the lock release device is forced in frictional sliding contact with the plurality of locking members against the spring bias of each of the locking members.

Independent claim 11 recites, *inter alia*, a locking mechanism for securing a battery compartment cover to a mobile terminal body, the mechanism comprising a first and a second locking member coupled to the main terminal body, the first locking member having a first locking member top face and the second locking member having a second locking member top face, a first and a second bias spring biasing the first and the second locking members, respectively, in a closed position, the first bias spring biasing the first locking member in a first bias direction, the second bias spring biasing the second locking member in a second bias direction, the first locking member having a first locking leg extending orthogonally to the first bias direction from the first locking member top face, the second locking member having a second locking leg extending orthogonally to the second bias direction from the second locking member top face, a

lock release device operatively coupled to the first and the second locking members to simultaneously move the first locking member in a first direction opposite the first bias direction against the first bias spring and the second locking member in a second direction opposite the second bias direction against the second bias spring wherein the first direction and the second direction are different, wherein the lock release device moves in a third direction that is orthogonal to each of the first direction and the second direction, and wherein the lock release device is biased in the closed position by a longitudinal elastic member and a first latching member adjacent to the first locking member top face and a second latching member adjacent to the second locking member top face, the first latching member and the second latching member being attached to the battery compartment cover and the separate from the lock release device, the first latching member being securely gripped by the first locking leg of the first locking member, the second latching member being securely gripped by the second locking leg of the second locking member, wherein the lock release device is in partial frictional contact with the first and the second locking members, wherein the first latching member is released from the grip of the first locking member and the second latching member is released from the grip of the second locking member when the lock release device is forced in frictional sliding contact with the first and second locking members against the corresponding bias spring of each of the locking members.

4. The closest prior art of record, Krautz et al. (US-4,334,341) differs from the claimed invention because it is directed to a buckle for a safety belt (and not a locking mechanism for a cover) and has a different configuration of elements, Benedict (US-

7,146,692) differs from the claimed invention because it was not filed prior to the effective filing date of the instant application and Howald (US-6,014,793) differs from the claimed invention because the orientation of the locking/latching members is different from that of the instant application. Applicant's claims 1 and 11 comprise a particular combination, which is neither taught nor suggested by the prior art.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

6. Accordingly, Applicant's claims are allowed for these reasons and for the reasons recited by the Applicant in the arguments filed on 3/17/2006, 8/25/2006, 11/27/2006, 4/25/2007, 10/15/2007, 2/25/2008, 7/3/2008, 10/27/2008, 11/19/2008 and the Terminal Disclaimer approved on 9/28/2007.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MATTHEW SAMS whose telephone number is (571)272-8099. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lester Kincaid can be reached on (571) 272-7922. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. S./

Examiner, Art Unit 2617

3/18/2009

/Lester Kincaid/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2617